

should inquire into the causes, and remedy the grievances as far as possible. The proprietors of the fisheries have not materially suffered, because the price has always kept up so as to meet their expenses and a good profit, and consequently the burden has fallen exclusively on the purchasers. Large quantities are caught and put up for sale down the river, and taken to foreign markets, consequently those who had formerly the privilege of buying their fish and putting them away themselves, are now compelled to depend on others, and be liable to pay such enhanced price as the variable state of the market might command for that article. This grievance falls most heavily on the upper counties, who once enjoyed an equal participation with the rest of us in the products of the streams and rivers, by which our State is watered. They have more interest in this question than all others, because they have more than any others suffered by this privation, and hence the greater number of petitions from that region.

It has pleased a munificent Creator to provide, in the vast deep, the most ample means of subsistence. When we reflect upon the mysterious process by which this portion of divine economy is made to extend itself almost to every part of the habitable globe, we cannot but discover the most conclusive proof that any unequal participation of these benefits is at once violative of the grand designs and purposes of the giver of all good.

Your committee believe that we should not sanction any system which seems to pervert that design, and that if the evils complained of really do exist, the Legislature should apply some remedy to correct them. We have prepared, and herewith submit a bill, which the committee think will have the effect of restoring equality in the diffusion of these natural benefits. The proprietors of the long seines cannot be affected injuriously, while all others may felicitate themselves upon the unmolested enjoyment of the blessings of a bountiful Providence.

Which was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Crisfield, from the committee on ways and means, delivered the following report—

The committee of ways and means, to whom was referred the memorial of the Professors of the Medical Department of the University of Maryland, have had the same under consideration, and report—

That they are of opinion that the prayer of the petition—